THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND mINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Supply of Commodities

2564. SHRI PARASRAM BHARADWAJ : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of steep rise in prices of vegetables/fruits/polypack milk, the Government propose to allow fair price shops to handle these commodities by arranging supplies from production centres from rural areas to benefit producers and consumers; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

New Telephone Exchanges in Bareilly

2565. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGAWAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the strowger system of telephone exchange in Bereilly, Uttar Pradesh has been declared obsolete;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which it is proposed to be replaced by a new telephone exchange?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (c). The STrowger Exchange of Bereilly was first installed in 1977 with a capacity of 3000 lines and expanded upto 10,000 lines. This exchange has since been replaced and all lines transferred to E-10b Electronic Exchange by December, 1995.

Speed Post Service in Azamgarh, U.P.

2566. DR. BAILRAM : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'speed post' service is available in uttar Pradesh particularly in Azamgarh district;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Speed Post Service on the National Network is available in 9 cities in Uttar Pradesh. These are Agra, Allahabad, Dehradun, Gorakhpur, Lucknow, Meerut, Moradabad, Kanpur, Varanasi, Speed Post Service has not yet been provided in Azamgarh District.

(b) Under Speed Post network, only a specific city/ town, and not the entire district, is connected. Moreover, justification for introducing this service in a town depends on operational feasibility and financial viability.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

[English]

Non functioning of Steel Plant

2567. SHRI ANCHAL DAS : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the MESCO Steel Plant in district Tajpur, Orissa has been functioning;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) to (c). According to information made available by the State Govt. of Orissa, the following two steel plants are proposed to be set up by the Mesco Group at Integrated Industrial Complex, Distt. Jajpur, Orissa :-

S. No.	Name of the Unit	Capacity (Million TPA)
1.	Mideast Integrated Steel Limited	Ph.I : 0.50 (Pig Iron) Ph.II : 1.20 (Steel)
2.	Mesco Kalinga Steel Limited	Ph.I : 2.25 (Pig Iron & Steel) Ph.II : 4.50 (-do-)

As reported by the State Govt., the first phase of the Mideast Integrated Steel Limited's project is expected to be commissioned in August, 1996.

Delivery of Money Order

2568. SHRI CHURCHILL ALEMAO : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the payment against the money-orders sent by the people are not made in time particularly in hilly and remote areas of the country;

(b) if so, whether any complaints have been received in this regard during the last two years;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) the number of guilty postal employees punished; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to ensure early delivery of money orders?